sincus
news

Inside:

Where's the TIMEX Computer Corporation?

What happens to the million TIMEX/Sinclair computer owners?

We at the Sinclair Computer Users Society(SINCUS) don't have all the answers, but we are looking.

We meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month, at 7 pm, at the Vestal Public Library (March 21 and April 18, for sure) You can meet with users of the ZX80,ZX81,TS1000,TS1500 and the new TS2068. Review software, see hardware, learn and teach, write for a newsletter, add to a tape library,borrow back issues of computer mags. Meetings are open to the public. Stop in, listen and join in. For info write to and include a SASE for a fast reply:

SINCUS
P.O. Box 36
Johnson City,NY 13790
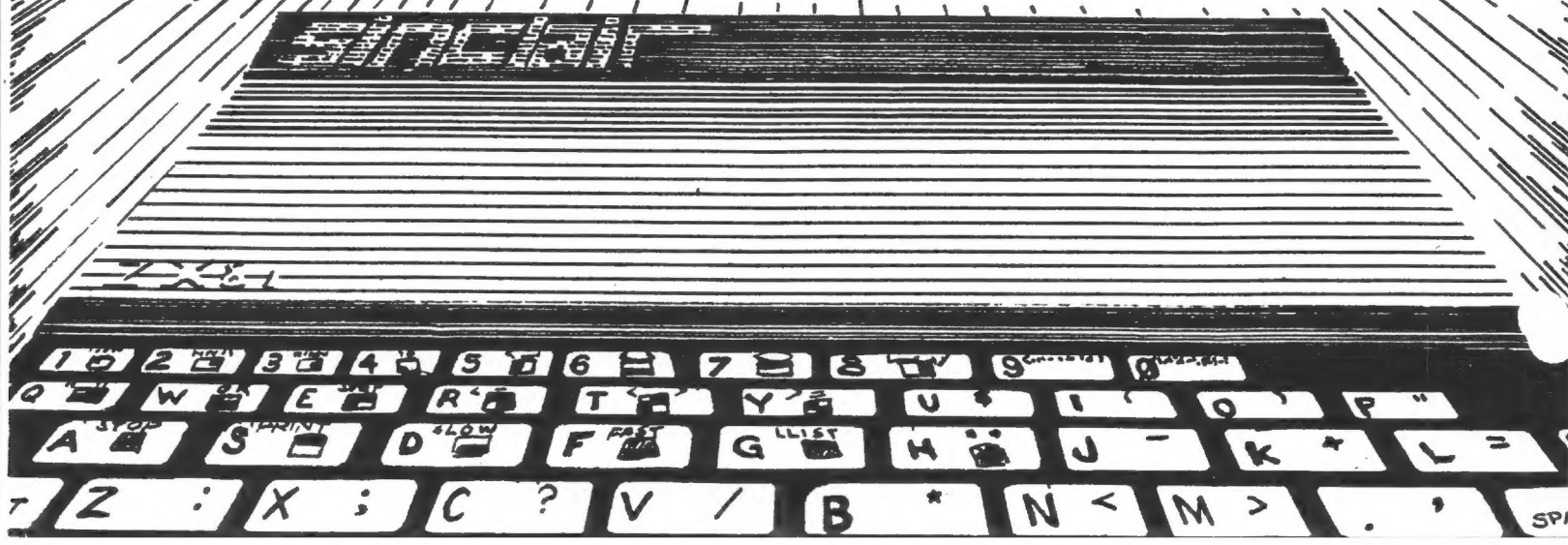
POKE by Paul

by Paul Hill

The news today was unexpected TIMEX QUITS the computer market, not ENOUGH profit. You can also read,therefore,that there must be plenty of profit in the watch market! Texas Instruments got out last fall, Atari is on the ropes, Commodore is a question, Coleco has an armful of problems and on and on. The home computer market is brand new and noone is quite sure how to sell big, sell low and make enough profit. As I see the market to date, all the biggies advertised like crazy to get people in to the market and then forgot about them after the sale. You cannot solve hundreds of problems a day about computers on an 800 number with a person on the other end who doesn't know what the unit looks like, much less how to plug it in. The successful operations IBM,Apple, and Radio Shack have a network of stores, trained staff and backup. Even if the home computer is less that $100 it is still complex and confusing to most people and some handholding is necessary. One young lady wrote me asking how to make the TS1000 work, the 800 number said they didn't explain the basic workings of the computer and gave her our address. There's probably a whole bunch of computers of all brands sitting on closet shelves, unused!

Well, what happens now? Uncle Clive is sending over his QL business computer next month, maybe then we'll have an American connection to Sinclair Ltd.

We are in touch with other TS user groups in the US and swap newsletters with them and will carry articles from them. The Cincinnati area user group alerts us to a problem that they are having with the 2068, bad color and sound. TIMEX was working on the problem and now are out of business. Also TS User magazine is supposed to be back in February according to the Cincinnati people.

Get a look at the Sears 1984 Spring catalog on the TS printer it shows it printing in COLOR! Does yours?

Bill Stemples found several TS1000's for sale with keyboards that don't function 100%. If buying, check it out first! Have you ever seen those "Trac Balls" The ones where you roll a ball around with your fingers to control the movement of the cursor or Pac Man? If you flip it over it looks like a...with a long tail, a rat? No, a mouse! Which came first the mouse or the paddle?

Trip to the Computer Show at Madison Square Garden is on, got room for more, we can go on Saturday, March 31, or Sunday, April 1.

Still have an opening for a Recording Secretary until May elections.

Paul Hill
President
SINCUS,March 1984
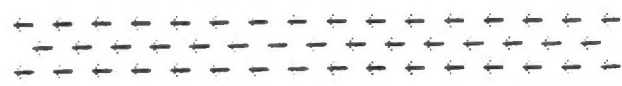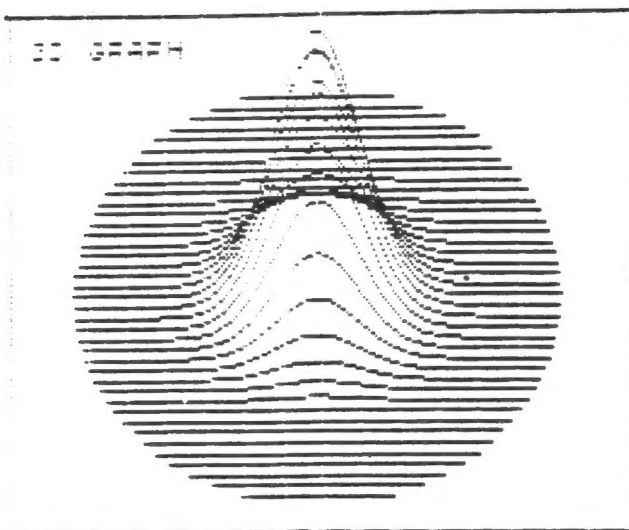
This was plotted on a TIMEX-Sinclair 2068 Home Computer in normal display mode and printed out on the TS 2040 thermal printer.

The display comes from a program called "3d graph" that Carl Terry copied from a book.
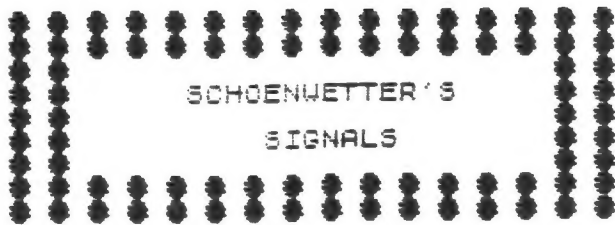
```
██ ████████████████████████ ██
██ ████████████████████████ ██
          SCHOENWETTER'S
            SIGNALS
██ ████████████████████████ ██
██ ████████████████████████ ██
      Tips from Dave Schoenwetter
```

WANT ADS:

        Here are some tips for mac-
hine code programming on the TI-
MEX-Sinclair machines which I
have found to be very useful es-
pecially when working with the
2K system. All tips will work in
16K systems too.

(1) I have accidentally deleted
my 1 REM statement when editting
the BASIC part of my program on
many occasions. To eliminate
the possibility of deleting your
1 REM statement which contains
your machine code program. ENTER
1 REM followed by enough charac-
ters to hold your MC program.
POKE 16570,0 which will change
1 REM to 0 REM! The program
will now LIST and RUN but the 0
REM cannot accidentally be dele-
ted!

(2) With large 1 REM machine
code programs on 2K systems the
computer often gets in a loop
when attempting to edit BASIC.
This causes a continuous loop
LISTING (or trying to) the 1 REM
statement. To prevent this I
I added a couple of Hex 76's
near the beginning of 1 REM text
This prevents a LIST beyond the
"Hex 76". One disadvantage is
that you must ENTER LIST 2 to
see your BASIC program. However
it's better than losing your pro
gram to the "LIST loop".

(3) For anyone interested in EN-
TERing machine code. I wrote a
machine code program that loads
itself above RAMTOP 2K or 16K
and uses 128 bytes of storage.
By using four lines of BASIC the
the program then waits for the
user to ENTER a four digit Hex
address. The MC program then
PRINTs to the screen 128 bytes
of Hex data. The decimal ad-
dress of the entered Hex address
is also printed. The program is
then in the INPUT mode for Hex
data. Any number of bytes may be
ENTERed on one line. The charac-
ter "G" will skip over a byte
and move the cursor by one byte.
Any incomplete byte or non-valid
Hex character (except G) will
terminate the program with an
error. I will bring a copy of
the program to the next meeting.

                    Dave Schoenwetter
                    SINCUS,March 1984

        * * * * EXTRA * * * *

SINCUS received the following
letter:

My name is Ed Cotton and I am
interested in exchanging TS1000
16K programs   At present I've
over 100 programs, most of them
are 16K required. They range
from utilies like VU-CALC, M-
coder or Tool Kit to games and
adventure programs.

If anyone in your group is in-
terested, please drop me a line
at the address above (below) or
call me at 315-336-8789.
            8025 NOW FLOYD ROAD
            ROME, NEW YORK 13440

```
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
* *                       * *
* *    THE BRICK WALL     * *
* *                       * *
* *    IN YOUR COMPUTER   * *
* *                       * *
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
           BY WES BRZOZOWSKI
```

I really hate this damn machine
I really wish they'd sell it.
It never does just what I want
but only what I tell it!!

                    graffiti written on
                    university computer

        Actually, that poem is a bit
optimistic. Even when you tell
your computer to do something,
it may instead do something else
It knows nothing about the deci-
mal numbers we use in BASIC, but
instead uses a clever program
that gives us the illusion that
it does. Unfortunately, this
program has certain limitations,
and can give the wrong answers
to some programs. This is not a
bug; it's a problem that must
occur in every BASIC in every
computer. If the BASIC inter-
preter were well written, we'd
rarely, if ever, run into these
limits. Also, note that they're
different for different model
computers. Whereever they are,
they're like a brick wall that
your program absolutely cannot
smash through. The only way to
get to the other side is to find
a clever way around the obstacle
This month, we'll find the wall
and do some exercises that will
allow us to think about it.
        Enter the following program
and try to measure the amount of
time it takes to run. (A good
measurement would require a stop
watch, but don't get all that
fanatical!)

        1 FOR J=1 TO 10 STEP 1
        2 NEXT J

        Those with some knowledge of
BASIC wil realize that the STEP
1 part is unnecessary, but in-
clude it anyway for continuity
with what will come later.
        When the program is done,
type PRINT J then ■■■■■. You
may be surprised at the result,
but it gives some insight as to
how a FOR/NEXT loop works.
        Next, type in the following
program. Please pay careful at-
tention to the number of zeroes.


```
1 FOR J=10000000 TO 10000010 STE
     P 1
2 NEXT J
```
■■■ the program. Note th
making J larger does not make
the program run slower. Type
PRINT J and ENTER to see a re-
sult that's probably not too sur
prising anymore.
        Next, type in:
```
1 FOR J=10000000000 TO 100000000
     10 STEP 1
2 NEXT J
```
■■■ the program and time it.
        If you get impatient, hit
BREAK and then type PRINT J and
ENTER to see how far J has gone
No matter how long you wait be-
fore hitting BREAK, the result
will be the same. You've just
run into the brick wall!!
        Is J too big? Just in case
it's not, let's change something
else first. Type in:
```
1 FOR J=10000000000 TO 100000000
     10 STEP 2
2 NEXT J
```
This seems to run fine. Perhaps
the problem isn't with J!
        Let's try something complete
ly different. You don't need a
fantastic background in mathema-
tics to know that:

        The 3's simply cancel each
other out. Let's do this in a
program:

```
1 LET A=1
2 LET B=A
3 LET B=B/3
4 LET B=3*B
5 IF A=B THEN PRINT "EQUAL"
6 IF A<>B THEN  PRINT "NOT EQUAL
"
```

        Walking through the program,
we see that we first set A=B=1,
in lines 1 and 2. In line 3, B
becomes 1/3. In line 4, B be-
comes 1 again. Therefore, from
lines 5 and 6, we'd think that
the result should be "EQUAL".
Don't make any bets! Try the pro
gram out and see for yourself!

        It shouldn't matter what or-
der we do the multiply and di-
vide so let's swap lines 3 and
4 as follows:

```
3 LET B=3*B
4 LET B=B/3
```

        First, check to see that the
changed program should do the
same thing and the RUN it. Why
does the answer come out differ-
ent? We've just run into a brick
wall again, and though it's not
obvious, it's the same wall we
hit before!
        Why does this happen? If I

```
→ → → → → → → → → → → → → → → →
→ → → → → → → → → → → → → → → →
```

```
‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡
‡‡            ‡‡
‡‡   HAPPY    ‡‡
‡‡ ST. PATRICK'S DAY!! ‡‡
‡‡            ‡‡
‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡
```

don't sell your ZX81 down the river
by GARY COLE, SINCUS

Have you noticed a distinct change in attitudes about the ZX81? Now, suddenly, from "wow, I can't believe how much we can do with so little!", it's "ZX81 w/rampack, for sale, cheap." It seems the time has come--my little computer is, shudder, obsolete. And to think that just a few months ago it was state-of-the-art in "el cheapo" computing. two things bother me though: 1. I bought my ZX to enjoy it, and I still do enjoy it. 2. I bought my ZX to learn from it, and it still has a lot more to teach me. One of the things I have enjoyed learning is that hardware additions and modifications are not just for the experts.

keep it simple with LSI

The first time you wrote a working program, did you have any understanding of just what the computer was doing? Probably not. You really didn't need the technical informatin to make it work. The computer was simply a "black box" between the keyboard and the TV. When you put the right program and data in one side of the box, out popped the correct answers. OK, so you were no whiz-kid at that point, but you had a functional understanding. That same kind of functional understanding is all you need to use those fancy sound chips, i/o chips, decoders, static rams, etc., etc. Unlike the hardware hackers of yore [yore being about five years ago], we are blessed with cheap, simple, off-the-shelf, single-chip, "black-box" solutions to some very complicated problems. Original solutions to these problems would require a very deep understanding of electronics, and lots of time and money, but a functional understanding of these "black-boxes", enough to use them, is in range of the novice. Large scale integration makes the job easy.

included an explanation here, this article would become a bit cumbersome, but I promise to con tinue with it next time. In the meantime, think about the prob- lem. Change the programs around. Note any "sudden" changes when the numbers you use are powers of two, or almost powers of two! It's good to try to understand this problem, because it can crop up in many other (not to obvious) ways, and understand- ing it can save you many hours of head scratching when your "perfect" program just won't work.

an adventure in five books

How do you learn to "program" these little black boxes? The first book I recommend is "The TTL Cookbook" by Don Lancaster. It takes a nut and bolt approach, and is not specifically aimed at micro-computing, but it is useful for learning the care and feeding of TTL chips and how basic logic circuits work.

The second book is "Computer Peripherals That You Can Build", by Dr. Gordon W. Wolfe. The first 50 pages cover digital gates and logic and define the most used computer words. The remainder of the book details how to easily connect your computer to printers, motors, sound chips, plotters, joysticks, household circuitry, etc. If you're a newcomer to ZX add-ons, this book may get you thinking. The projects are cheap, simple, and easy to build, and almost all include actual schematics instead of the dreaded "block diagram".

"From Chips To Systems" by Rodney Zaks, is a step-by-step tour of today's micro-computer chips and how they all fit together to produce a wide variety of systems. Zaks is somewhat more theory oriented than the other authors, but he still examines and evaluates individual chips by number and manufacturer. He also gives at least two examples of each type of chip in different applications. The book is very complete, from the history of microprocessors to the future, from 4 bit to 16 bit chips, from traffic signal controllers to personal computers, it covers it all.

The fourth book is really many books. Nothing can substitute for the manufacturers specs to provide our "black-box" understanding. Many provide examples of working circuits, and all are the last word on how to use these chips. Get your hands on some of these books. Any with the 8200 series of chips are fine. These are easy to adapt to your ZX81 and most are cheap. If you want a quick look or photo-copy of a spec-sheet, the Unicorn electronics store has a wide selection and a copier.

Finally, as members of a computer club, we all have one other fine reference book, one that's hard to beat for specific life-saving advice: the telephone book. If you have an idea or problem concerning your computer and its hardware, call someone. Fellow club members have been more than helpful to me, and I would particularly like to thank Bridgett Kremenec, Jerry Kendrick, and Wes Broszowski.

Maybe, before you give your ZX to your nephew, or sell it for small dollars, you should take off the back cover and experiment a little. There's a lot of fun and learning lurking in there. OK, it's "obsolete", but how many machines won't be after just a few years?

```
  15 RANDOMIZE
  20 PRINT "NAME PLEASE?"
  25 INPUT N$
  30 PRINT N$;" HOW HARD A PUZZL
="
  35 PRINT "DO YOU WANT?"
  60 PRINT ,,"EASY    INPUT  1"
  65 PRINT ,,"MEDIUM  INPUT  2"
  70 PRINT ,,"HARD    INPUT  3"
  75 INPUT B
  80 LET F=0
  85 LET N=0
  90 LET A$="+-*/"
  95 PRINT ,,"SELECT TYPE OF PUZ
ZLE:"
 100 PRINT ,,"ADD      INPUT 1"
 110 PRINT ,,"SUBTRACT INPUT 2"
 115 PRINT ,,"MULTIPLY INPUT 3"
 120 PRINT ,,"DIVIDE   INPUT 4"
 125 INPUT A
 135 CLS
 140 LET N=N+1
 145 PRINT "PUZZLE NO.: ";N,"COR
RECT: ";F
 150 LET C=INT (10↑B*RND+1)
 155 LET D=INT (10↑B*RND+1)
 160 IF A=4 AND B=1 THEN GO SUB
1000
 170 IF A=2 THEN GO SUB 1000
 175 LET B$=STR$ C+" "+A$(A)+" "
+STR$ D
 185 PRINT AT 10,10;B$;" = ";
 190 INPUT E
 195 PRINT E
 200 IF ABS (VAL B$-E)>0.01 THEN
GO TO 2000
 210 FOR T=1 TO 5
 220 PRINT AT 12,12;" O     CORRE
CT"
 225 PRINT AT 13,12;" T "
 230 PRINT AT 14,12;" T "
 240 PRINT AT 15,12;" T "
 245 PAUSE 30
 250 PRINT AT 12,12;" O   CORRE
CT"
 255 PRINT AT 13,12;" T "
 260 PRINT AT 14,12;" T "
 265 PRINT AT 15,12;" T "
 270 NEXT T
 275 PAUSE 100
 280 LET F=F+1
 290 IF F<10 THEN GO TO 135
 300 CLS
 305 PRINT "GOOD WORK, ";N$
 310 PRINT "YOU GOT 10 RIGHT OUT
OF ";N
 315 PRINT "YOUR SCORE:";(100*(F
/N));" PER CENT"
 320 PRINT AT 10,0;" TO GO AGAIN
PRESS       "
 325 GO TO 1
 330 SAVE "MATHTEST"
 335 RUN
1000 IF C>=D THEN RETURN
1010 LET X=C
1015 LET Y=D
1020 LET D=X
1025 LET C=Y
1030 RETURN
2000 PRINT ,"WRONG"
2010 FOR R=1 TO 5
2020 PRINT ,,"CORRECT ANSWER IS
";VAL B$
2025 PRINT ,,B$;" = ";ABS (VAL B
$)
2030 PAUSE 125
2035 IF B=3 THEN PAUSE 400
2040 CLS
2045 IF B=3 THEN GO TO 140
2050 NEXT R
2060 GO TO 135
```

Seen in a picture in a computer magazine, a picture of George Ir- win, plant engineer at Apple Computers wear- ing a shirt that said

"I.B.M."

Except in this case it meant:
    I
    Build
    Macs
    (for MacIntosh!!!)

MATHTEST

This program is an extension of a program some of us got with the early TIMEX-Sinclair 1000. It is a math drill that has 3 levels of difficulty. If you type carefully, using the KEY words and not spelling things like "INPUT", this should RUN in 2K. You may have to drop lines 325 and 330 to RUN at the 3rd level of difficulty which is numbers up to 999! Note the subroutine at 1000 that avoids the possiblity of a negative answer!

2K EXPRESS

TIMEX L4
Tips

TIMEX COMPUTER CORPORATION
WATERBURY, CONNECTICUTT

To Whom It May Concern;

I was astounded when I read you
had decided to get out of the
home computer market. I am wri-
ting to ask you to reconsider
before it is too late.

I have worn TIMEX watches as
long as I can remember. They
were purchased for their value!

I purchased a TIMEX-Sinclair
1000 computer when they first
came out for the same reason -
its value. I wanted to find out
if I liked computing! I have now
discovered that I love computing
and am willing to invest more in
my home computer. I now own the
2068 and the printer, plus seven
2068 software titles. I look for
ward to buying a monitor and 80
column printer plus more memory.

I have shown the 2068 to many
people and they are rightfully
impressed, as have been the in-
dustry magazines.

This all doesn't make much sense
unless it can be profitable for
you, I know that! The problem in
this market is for $250 or less
there is not room for a commis-
sion that pays someone to hold
the users hand. You have the
network of retail outlets, now
invest in a network of user
groups across the country. You
would be surprised how much the
people in these groups will sell
for you if you would but step in
an give them your support.

I hope that this may help you to
decide to hang in there a bit
longer - someone is going to
make money in the low end home
computer market, why not you!

Its like cancelling the Emmy
winning series!

                Sincerely,

            YOUR NAME HERE!

SINCLAIR RESEARCH LTD.
3 Sinclair Plaza
Nashua, New Hampshire 03061

To Whom It May Concern;

I own a TIMEX-Sinclair home com-
puter. What support or products
may I obtain through you. I am
particularly interested in the
products for the TS 2068!

I hope you will step in and con-
tinue your success story in the
home computer market!

                Sincerely,

            YOUR NAME HERE

A DIFFERENT APPROACH:

How do I write a program so the
computer will do something every
so many times? If it is doing
something 200 times, but every
40 times I want it to stop and
do something else. You say just
write IF k=40,IF k=80, etc. Fine
but what if k and my frequency
have no easily defined limits?

In line 168 we enter the fre-
quency. In 170 we divide the k,
or number of executions so far
by our frequency. In line 185
we test to see if that ——→AN
is an integer and therefore time
to branch!

```
  166 CLS : PRINT "Normally I bre
ak every 75 lines for newsletter
 format.      thenumber at whic
h you want me to  make a break s
o the printer copymay be cut. DO
 NOT ENTER ""0""!"
  167 PRINT  ""Total length of th
is item is"; "TAB 10;s;" LINES"
  168 INPUT "ENTER number now ";b
reak
  170 FOR k=1 TO s
  175 POKE 23692,255
  180 PRINT w$(k)
  185 LET skip=k/break
  186 IF skip=INT skip THEN LPRIN
T ""########################
####""
  190 LPRINT w$(k)
  195 NEXT k
```

2K EXPRESS

by Gary Ennis

**** EXTRA ****

Sinclair Makes Whiz Kids!!

Did you see the WHIZ KIDS television series when a Sinclair or TIMEX saved the kids! "Ralph", the series' usual hero computer had been taken away and Richie only had one day to clear his name and prove that the TV ratings were being tampered with. Enter that "cheap" computer with the membrane keyboard. Hooked up with a modem Richie accesses the ratings companies computer and shows what the real ratings are. One big gold ★ for the Sinclair! Funny thing, though. The credits at the end of the program never mentioned TIMEX or Sinclair. They (the credits) are likely the same each week. I'd think someone in production would have seen it. But then the credits are for technical assistance. Knowing what's being said here and in other users groups I suspect the people on Whiz Kids probably were told on the HOT LINE number that "We don't do basic workings!" Having not gotten any technical support, Whiz Kids didn' give any credit for it! I don't know it happened at all this way, but we know it has happened to other people! Too bad, too, as TIMEX was, I believe the first with a HOT LINE. I know only one road paved with good intentions! ♯!

2K EXPRESS
SINCUS
March 1984

NEW—here is hoping that this is the first of new breed of SINCUS publications. As you must have noticed this isn't a mimeograph newsletter!! It is being done by photocopy. We've been offered a chance to have the newsletter produced for a slightly higher cost per copy than we have been paying. The benefit of a photocopy product is we can now faithfully print LISTings! The actual printer listing will be used when we do this, thus you should be able to key it in and it will RUN without problem. I would like to see some short program listings submitted for our publication. By short, I mean will the entire listing fit on two 8x11 sheets of paper? That leaves a third page for the explanation of the LISTing! So I am hoping that this new technology will be a big boost in club morale - we certainly need it, what with the news of TIMEX dropping out!

PRINT—I hope this paste up system does work, but please give me a little time to develop some skills at it. I am already doing some coverup work on pages for next month to blot out the "pasteup shadows".

DRAW—we sure could use some real artwork! I am trying to do some 3 dimensional letters using VU-3D software, but time limits did me in for this issue. Anyone out there got any ideas for the artwork. Thanks for the covers goes to the Pres. Paul Hill. But we need artwork for each heading like TIMEXly Tips! Use the ones in this issue as a guide. If you produce something really neat, I will let you do ALL of the headings! ♯

EDIT—this format makes it much easier for me to do my job. I'm hoping that these printer copies do copy okay. We've seen poor copies of printer stuff in other newsletters. At this point I've not seen the results yet!

READ—carefully the article by Wes on the "Brick Wall". Those with TS 2068's be prepared for a different result than your 1000 friends get!

LLIST—I am particularly proud of the program that I wrote yesterday in an hour or so. I will demonstrate it at the next meeting It printed all the text in this newsletter! It was necessary as my electric typewriter turned up broken when I got it out to type the newsletter! The great attribute of the 2068 is that it is a programmer's machine! I won't claim these two programs are the final answer, but they're okay

for a couple hours work! First,
program A allows you to type in
22 lines of text. You may then
review each line and make any of
the changes that may have become
necessary by the 32 spots per
line format. You may also print
out a copy of the 22 lines. The
22 lines may then be saved to
tape. The editing function is, I
am sure, clumsy by word proces-
sing standards, but this is not
a "word processor"n it is a news
letter FORMATTER! Well, the sec-
ond program puts the separate
parts together, allowing the ed-
itor to leave a gap in the copy
at any point to facilitate cut-
ting and pasting to permit a fit
into the available space. An IF-
THEN statement is used to do it-
see TIMEXly Tips for the answer.
Program B also provides that if
the first printout is not what
will work then you may easily ob
tain any number of subsequent
printouts, until you get the ex-.
act fit that you need!
BRIGHT-I am not certain of the
telephone exchange and area code
but Digital Research's home num-
bers (not the 800 ones) are 8080
8086, and 8088!! But where did
the 8089 come from! These are,of
course, the numbers of the chips
(microprocessors) most often as-
sociated with Digital!
DATA-congratulations, Mr. and
Mrs. Wes Brzozowski on the arri-
val of their new baby daughter.
♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ HOLLY JEAN ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
    BORN: January 6, 1984
♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
OPEN/CLOSE-much has been said on
the subject of TIMEX dropping a
bomb with their announcement of
dropping out of the home compu-
ter market. I have a myriad of
ideas on the subject, but I will
try to confine my thoughts to a
few succinct reports I have read
plus my personal experience with
TIMEX.

FIRST, as I stated in 2K EXPRESS
a couple of month's ago-there is
a second name on my computer and
that is Sinclair. We are not the
TIMEX club, we are the Sinclair
Users Society. We have to hope
that Sinclair will follow thru
here in the colonies. I would
suggest that everyone who is con
cerned at this point-WRITE A LET
TER to TIMEX and Sinclair! The
addresses are in TIMEXly Tips
plus an idea for what you might
say. The part about being raised
with TIMEX watches is optional,
but if it is true use it!

The latest news release that I
read on the subject quoted a TI-
MEX executive as saying they an-
nounced now so as to give the

catalog people enough lead time
to plan their fall catalogs. He
continued with the statement "We
will continue to build computers
until we run out of parts-some
months from now! If that is the
real answer, why didn't TIMEX
say that to start with!

The TIMEX-Sinclair 2068 (and the
first mistake-after not getting
it out in March of 1983-was NOT
naming it the "2000"!) has got-
ten rave reviews by every publi-
cation that has reviewed it! The
unfortunate problem is the great
reviews are coming after the
show is cancelled! But America
is not without precedent in this
situation. The consumer has to
express the demand. We need to
expidite the development of the
strongest network of user groups
in the industry. And through the
influence of such unity we must
let the manufacturers know that
there is a demand of substantial
proportions out here!

My father used to preach "Never
underestimate a man's ability to
pay for something that he wants"
TIMEX seems to keep trying to do
it on price. TS1000 was #1 in
the market! Oh, you say the TI
and VIC 20 had color and real
keyboards and bells and whistles
They did - but they also had a
few drawbacks-like expensive
other stuff-like tape recorders,
memory expansion units, and the
stuff called software. The TIMEX
might have been in black/white
but it held no hidden extra cost
It was the best of the $99 in-
vestments-if you didn't know if
you liked "computing"! If you
did like computing why not admit
computing costs more than $100!

My unfortunate conclusion keeps
coming back to the facts that
   1. TIMEX seems to have been
      in a bad financial posi-
      tion BEFORE they took on
      the computers! They were
      looking for a quick way
      out? Remember TIMEX isn't
      on the stock exchange, it
      is still a private company
   2. There is a questionable
      market for a computer that
      only costs $100 or even
      $250. The reason for the
      question is: what does it
      do that I need! I teach
      a course in HOME computers
      and, unless you need mail-
      ing labels for your cards
      you may be hard put to use
      a home computer-EXCEPT for
      EDUCATION-the computer
      can be a great teacher!

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* MANY, MANY, THANKS to Paul, *
* Carl, Wes, Gary (Cole) and *
* Bill for contributing to   *
* this month's SINCUS.   *
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Gary Ennis
2K EXPRESS